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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/744,362	04/16/2001	Makoto Sato	09812.0659-00000	4455

22852 7590 02/22/2006

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EXAMINER

SHANG, ANNAN Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/744,362

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

Annan Q. Shang

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/03/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Iwamura (5,883,621)**

As to claim 1, note the **Iwamura** reference figures 1 and 5, disclose device control with topology map in a digital network and further discloses a transmission method, for transmitting data related to a first device (DSS IRD 100) to a second device (DVD, DVCR1, DVCR2, MD, etc.,) through a network (IEEE 1394) comprising:

The second device designating a unit within the first device for input, the second device transmitting a command in predetermined format that indicates which unit of the first device the second device has designated (figs.1-2 and col.3, lines 20-65);

Storing connection information (see figs. 1, 5, DSS IRD 100, and col. 3, lines 20-45) in a predetermined table in a RAM "storage means" of IRD 100 (fig. 5, col. 3, lines 20-34 and col. 5, lines 33-55);

Transmitting the stored connection information over the network to second device (DVD 900, MD, DVCR1-903, etc., 'Device') as a command data having in a predetermined format via the connection (IEEE 1394, figs. 11-13, col. 7, line 66-col. 9, line 12), note that during initialization of the network a table representing connection information is created and held within the RAM of all the Devices (figs.5 and 9); the DSS IRD 100 performs the functions as a master device and the other Devices as slaves, and in response to a user command, such as drag and drop, which transmits commands to control the various functions of any Device connected to the IEEE 1394, where CPU 312 "a transmission means" of DSS IRD 100 constructs a hierarchical connection map or topology map and transmits commands to controls the Devices accordingly; note also that the CPU of each Device on the 1394 network determines the output state on the basis of data transmitted from the IRD 100;

data related to the status of connection between the Devices of the corresponding input Device, output Devices and the internal function processing device of the one Device is transmitted to the other Device (col. 4, line 55-col. 5, line 15, lines 33-50), note that each node or Device identifies itself and indicates input and output port

status information (see input and output status of Devices as indicated in table 500 fig. 5) and where the stored connection information has a hierarchical structure (figs.5-7), including information about connections between internal units within the first device or the designated input unit (figs.5 and 9, col.5, lines 34-65, col.6, lines 19-33 and col.7, lines 41-65), note that table 500 or 800, also indicates the internal connections between internal units, furthermore audio/video is transferred between IRD 100 and the Devices connected to the IEEE 1394 (col. 4, lines 49-54);

where the stored connection information contains a unit identifier descriptor representing all data (col.8, lines 25-33), a source descriptor representing a list of transmission sources, a destination descriptor representing a list of receivers (col.3, lines 37-58, col.4, line 63-col.5, line 45 and line 46-col.6, line 5); a transformation descriptor representing a list of signal conversions (is inherent to the IEEE 1394 network system of fig.1, which includes different device types or receivers with various reception devices for receiving the video data transmitted, where the reception devices reads the content and distinguishes the processing method (format) of the received data (i.e., MPEG, DV, NTSC, PAL, etc., col.4, line 63-col.5, line 45) and processes accordingly base on the device type.

As to claims 2-4, Iwamura further discloses where the pieces information held in table 500 and table 800 (figs. 5 and 9) includes information related to a connection between and an input Device and an output Device of the first device and an internal function processing unit of the first device and information about which formats the first device can input or output by the Device which are held on a RAM and includes

information related transmitting the data over multiple connections at once, each Device outputs at once in response to a command via the user interface to enable the Device to determine the pieces of information (col. 5, lines 6-43, col. 6, lines 19-33 and col. 7, lines 41-65), note that each Device uses a self identification format (fig. 4, col. 5, lines 16-24) to identify its input and output format.

As to claim 5-7, Iwamura further discloses where the input unit and output unit indicated by the information held in the table includes input unit or an output unit within the first device that are not connected to the network, where the information to a present connection state in the device is transmitted to another device by transmission of the command of a predetermined format and when a present connection state is changed, if another connection is influenced, information related to the change in the present connection state is further transmitted (col. 4, line 55-col. 5, line 44 and line 66-col. 6, line 5)

As to claims 8-9, the claimed "data transmission method for transmitting data..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

As to claim 10, the claimed "data transmission method for transmitting data..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

As to claims 11-12, Iwamura further discloses where when a plurality of signal sources exist, such as IRD, DVD, VCR(s), data related to the plurality of signal sources is transmitted via the 1394 bus (col. 8, lines 18-51).

As to claim 13, Iwamura further discloses where data designating the input unit or the output unit and the function processing unit has a data structure equal to that of

data used when a setting related to a connection between the input unit or the output unit and the function processing unit is performed (col. 5, lines 6-50 and col. 8, lines 18-51).

As to claim 14, the claimed "a device data transmission method for transmitting data..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

As to claims 15-18, Iwamura further discloses where data related to the output state of the video image, a flag representing that a specific video image is superposed on the video image is added, the specific video image represented by the flag is a video image of an on-screen display, where a processing state of the video image is represented by the specific field of data related to an output state of the video image and the processing state of the video image is represented by using a flag (figs 11-13 and col. 8, line 43-col. 9, line 12), furthermore the CPU in the other Devices determines the basis of the flag that the specific video data is superposed on the video data.

As to claim 19, Iwamura further discloses where the processing state represented by data in specific field is data representing a state that predetermined data is extracted from multiplexed video data (col. 7, line 66-col. 8, line 10).

As to claims 20-24, Iwamura further discloses where a processing state represented by data in the specific field is data representing a state of an on-screen display for displaying data on which a video image is superposed, is data representing a state that a signal format of video, is data representing a state that a special process is performed to a video image, is a state that video images mixed and is data representing

a state that the same video image as that of a signal source is set (figs 11-13 and col. 7, line 66-col. 9, line 12).

As to claim 25, the claimed "a transmission device for transmitting data..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claims 26-28 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 2-4.

Claims 29-31 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 5-7.

As to claims 32-33, the claimed "a transmission device..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

As to claim 34, the claimed "a transmission device..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claims 35-36 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 11-12.

As to claim 37, the claimed "a transmission device..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claims 38-40 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 15-18.

Claim 41 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 19.

Claims 42-46 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 20-24.

As to claim 47, the claimed "a transmission system..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claim 48 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

Claims 49-50 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 3-4.

Claims 51-53 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 5-7.

As to claims 54-55, the claimed "a transmission system..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

As to claim 56, the claimed "a transmission system..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claims 57-58 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 11-12.

As to claim 59, the claimed "a transmission system..." contains the same structural elements as rejected claim 1.

Claims 60-62 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 15-18.

Claim 63 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 19.

Claims 64-68 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 20-24.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-68 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues that the prior art of records Iwamura (5,883,621) does not disclose a map that contains information about internal connections between units within the devices and further points to the display of figures 6 and 7 to support arguments.

In response, Examiner disagrees. Examiner notes applicant arguments, however Iwamura discloses in figures 5 and 9, tables 500 and 800 stored in RAM, which indicates various units and information about internal processing units. Hence, Iwamura reference meets all the amended claimed limitations, as discussed in the office action

above. The amendment to all the independent claims necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection discussed above. This office action is non-final.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q. Shang** whose telephone number is **571-272-7355**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-400pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher S. Kelley** can be reached on **571-272-7331**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at **866-217-9197 (toll-free)**.



Annan Q. Shang.



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